

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend Claim 10 as follows.

1. - 9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

- a sensor portion including a plurality of pixels;
- an optical black portion including a plurality of optical black pixels;
- a scanning circuit effecting scanning for reading out signals of said sensor portion and said optical black portion; and
- a decoder for dividing said scanning circuit into a plurality of blocks and controlling said scanning circuit to cause scanning to start at a desired one of the plurality of blocks,

wherein said decoder includes a latch circuit to which a start signal is input corresponding to the block at which said scanning circuit starts to scan, and

wherein said scanning circuit is arranged to start the scanning for said optical black portion and is also arranged to input said start signal to said latch circuit to instruct said decoder to start the control of said scanning circuit to scan said sensor  
~~portion when said scanning circuit completes the scanning for reading out the signal of said~~  
~~optical black portion.~~

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein upon receiving a reset pulse, said scanning circuit stops scanning.

12. (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a lens for focusing light onto said sensor portion;

an A/D converter for converting the signals from said sensor portion into digital signals; and

a digital signal processor for processing a signal from said A/D converter.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising:

a lens for focusing light onto said sensor portion;

an A/D converter for converting the signals from said sensor portion into digital signals; and

a digital signal processor for processing a signal from said A/D converter.